

positions of the first elongated structure and the plurality of positions of the second elongated structure; and

a linkage operably connecting the actuator to the first elongated structure and the second elongated structure.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please re-write paragraph 0001 on page 1, as follows:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to a controlled feed device having an associated safety device and, more specifically, to a waste reducing device, such as a wood chipper, having an infeed chute safety device.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] Wood chippers are used to reduce branches, trees, brush, and other bulk wood products into small wood chips. A wood chipper typically includes an infeed chute, a feed system for controlling the feed rate of wood products into the chipper, a wood chipping mechanism, a drive system for powering the feed system and the chipping mechanism, and a discharge chute. The infeed chute is typically a funnel-shaped conduit with a wide opening which tapers towards the feed system, converging the wood products towards the chipping mechanism. Through the operation of the feed system, wood products are brought into contact with the chipping mechanism, which grinds, flails, or cuts the wood products into small pieces. These wood chips are propelled into the discharge chute and expelled from the wood chipper.

Wood chippers, if operated incorrectly, are potentially dangerous devices. The chipping mechanism typically rotates at high speeds, producing the high torque necessary to chip wood products. The feed system, located at the narrowest point of the infeed chute, is a dangerous area which may catch an operator's clothing or, more importantly, an operator's limb if he or she improperly reaches into the infeed chute during operation of the wood chipper.

Please re-write paragraph 0012 on pages 4-5, as follows:

[0002] The first elongated structure 36 and the second elongated structure 42 are operably connected to an actuator 56 which controls the powered feed and cutting systems of the wood chipper 10. Typically, these systems are hydraulically operated and controlled, however other operational systems may be utilized. The actuator 56 has a plurality of operable positions corresponding to the plurality of positions of the first elongated structure 36 and the second elongated structure 42. The actuator 56 may have a first operable position corresponding to a first position 57 (Fig. 3) of the first elongated structure 36 and a first position 59 (Fig. 3) of the second elongated structure 42, the first operable position of the actuator 56 permitting motive operation of the powered feed and cutting systems of the wood chipper 10. The actuator 56 may also have a second operable position corresponding to a second position of the first elongated structure 36 and a second position of the second elongated structure 42, the second operable position of the actuator 56 interrupting motive operation of the powered feed and cutting systems of the wood chipper 10. The actuator 56 may further have a third operable position corresponding to a third position 61 (Fig. 3) of the first elongated structure 36 and a third position 63 (Fig. 3) of the second elongated structure 42, the third operable position of the actuator 56 reversing motive operation of the powered feed and cutting systems of the wood

chipper 10. Although three positions are discussed, there may be fewer or more positions but including a first, motive, position and one of a second stop or reverse position. As such, the elongated structures 36 and/or 42 may be rotated from a first position 57 and 59, which allows motive operation, to a third position 61 and 63, which reverses motive operation, with a second position that stops motive operation positioned therebetween. So, for example, an operator grabbing the first elongated structure 36 from within the infeed chute 20 simply pulls the first elongated structure 36 downward and rotationally inward, as would be the natural reaction of one trying to leverage oneself against the first elongated structure 36 to pull oneself out of the infeed chute 20. Similarly, an observer outside of the infeed chute 20 may push or pull the second elongated structure 42 rotationally inward, toward the opening 38 of the infeed chute 20 to stop or reverse the motive operation. Thus, by varying the position of the first elongated structure 36 and the second elongated structure 42, and thereby varying the operable position of the actuator 56, the operable state of the wood chipper 10 may be varied.

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Amended